

Swan Pond River Subwatershed Dennis, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The Swan Pond River Subwatershed is located in Dennis and Harwich. It has an area of 2,211 acres. Swan Pond River connects Swan Pond, located in the center of this subwatershed, with Nantucket Sound, which forms its southern boundary. The Route 28 business corridor runs through the region. The area along Route 28 and to the south is marked by intensive development, while the area to the north of Swan Pond is largely undeveloped.

According to the Division of Marine Fisheries, Swan Pond has been prohibited for shellfishing for a long time. Factors that reduce the water quality in this area are the types of soil, dense development, the narrowness of the creek, and the waterfowl population. It is unlikely that shellfish beds here could reopen in the future.

Municipal water is available in almost all parts of this subwatershed. There are no municipal sewers in the Towns of Dennis or Harwich. In the Spring 2002, the Harwich Planning Board began holding informal discussions on how best to solve wastewater contamination of the town's harbors.

Stewards:

- Unknown

Studies conducted in the watershed:

- Cape Cod Nutrient Loading Study – Swan Pond. Conducted by Tetra Tech. Study will develop critical nitrogen loads, conduct a flushing analysis, and develop watershed nitrogen management options to reduce nitrogen loads. Estimated completion in 2002.
- Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes. 2001. Cape Cod Commission.

Who is collecting water quality data and where:

- Unknown

Management actions taken:

- Swan Pond River Stormwater Remediation Project, 1997 (319 Grant Program).

Subwatershed facts:

- 21 E sites: 1 on Route 28 and Main Street
- Solid waste sites: none
- Zone IIs located in this watershed: 1
- Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPAs): none
- Percent of the undeveloped land that is protected (according to 1985/1990 data): 21.1%
- Acres of existing wetlands: 184
- Certified vernal pools: none

- Named freshwater ponds: The Plashes, Great Pond Plash, Swan, Eagle (*Dennis*), White (*Dennis, Harwich*)
- Named rivers or creeks: Swan Pond River
- 1998 Massachusetts 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies: Swan Pond River – pathogens.
- Shellfish growing areas: Swan Pond is prohibited to shellfish harvesting.

Priorities:

- Initiate water quality monitoring program in Swan Pond and Swan Pond River for bacteria and nutrients to participate in the Estuaries Project, Southeastern Massachusetts Embayment Restoration. Work with Estuaries Project to develop a QAPP.
- Acquire open space. Parcels considered a priority for acquisition for water supply protection and development: Dennis Tracts 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20 were ranked as having medium or high water supply development potential in the Cape Cod Commission's *Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project* (April 1999). These tracts are located throughout the Town of Dennis.
- Implement those salt marsh restoration projects identified in the 2001 *Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes* that have been evaluated and prioritized by the town. Sites are: Lower County Road restriction of Swan Pond River (Site DE-11) and Route 28 restriction of Swan Pond River (DE-12). Located just west of this subwatershed are four sites on an unnamed channel off Swan Pond River, restricted by: Baker Beach Road (Site DE-7), South Village Road (Site DE-8), Earthen berm (DE-9), and Laynard Lane to Fiddlers Green Lane (DE-10).

Recreation:

Camping areas: none

Golf courses: none

Pathways and trails:

- Indian Lands Conservation Trail
- Swan Pond Overlook
- www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm

Public access:

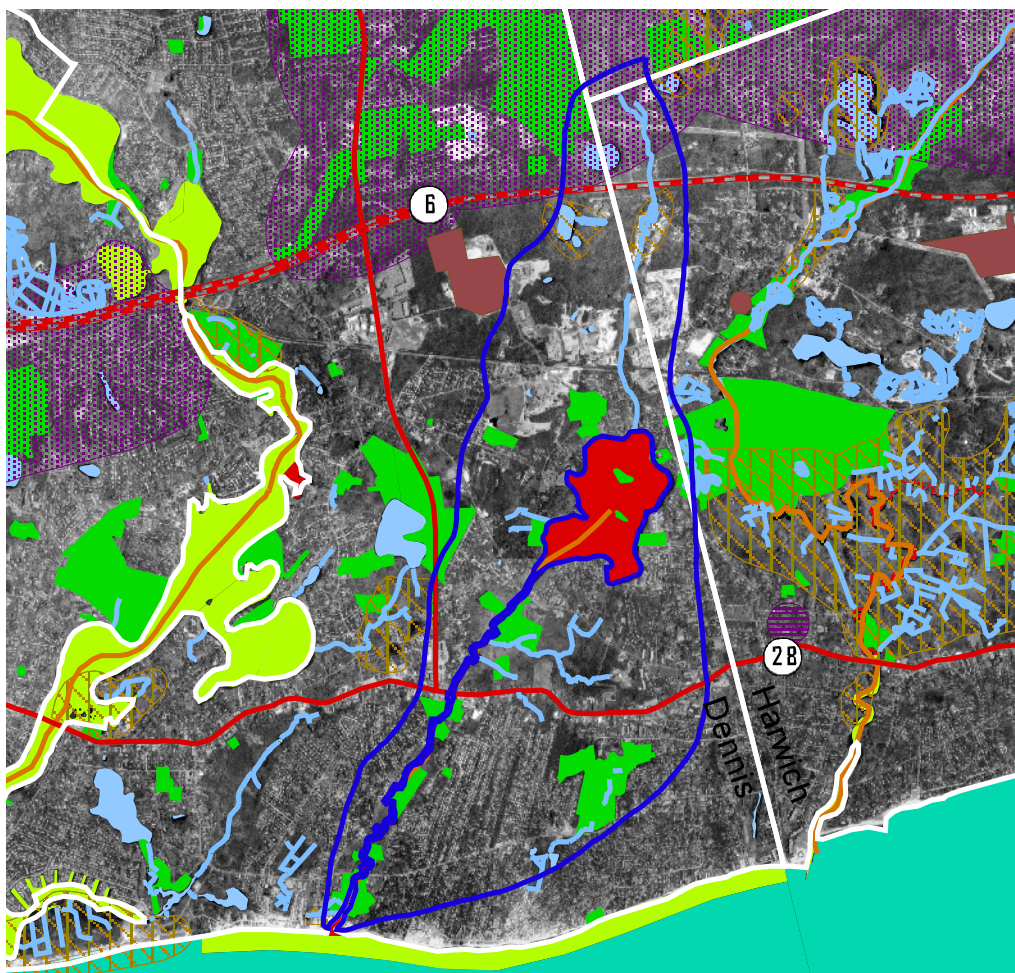
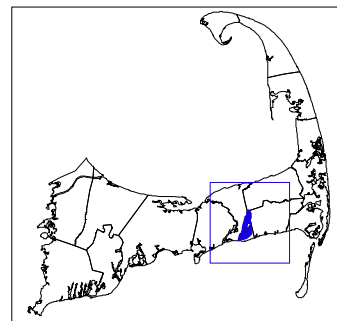
- www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm

Public beaches and landings:

- South Village Road Beach

Swan Pond River

Dennis and Harwich, MA



Watershed Resources



0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Data

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Estimated Habitats of Rare Species

Groundwater Protection Areas

- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Zone II
- Solid Waste Facility

Watershed Boundary

Anadromous Fish Run

Shellfish Growing Areas

- APPROVED
- CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
- MANAGEMENT CLOSURE
- PROHIBITED
- RESTRICTED

Open Space

Streams

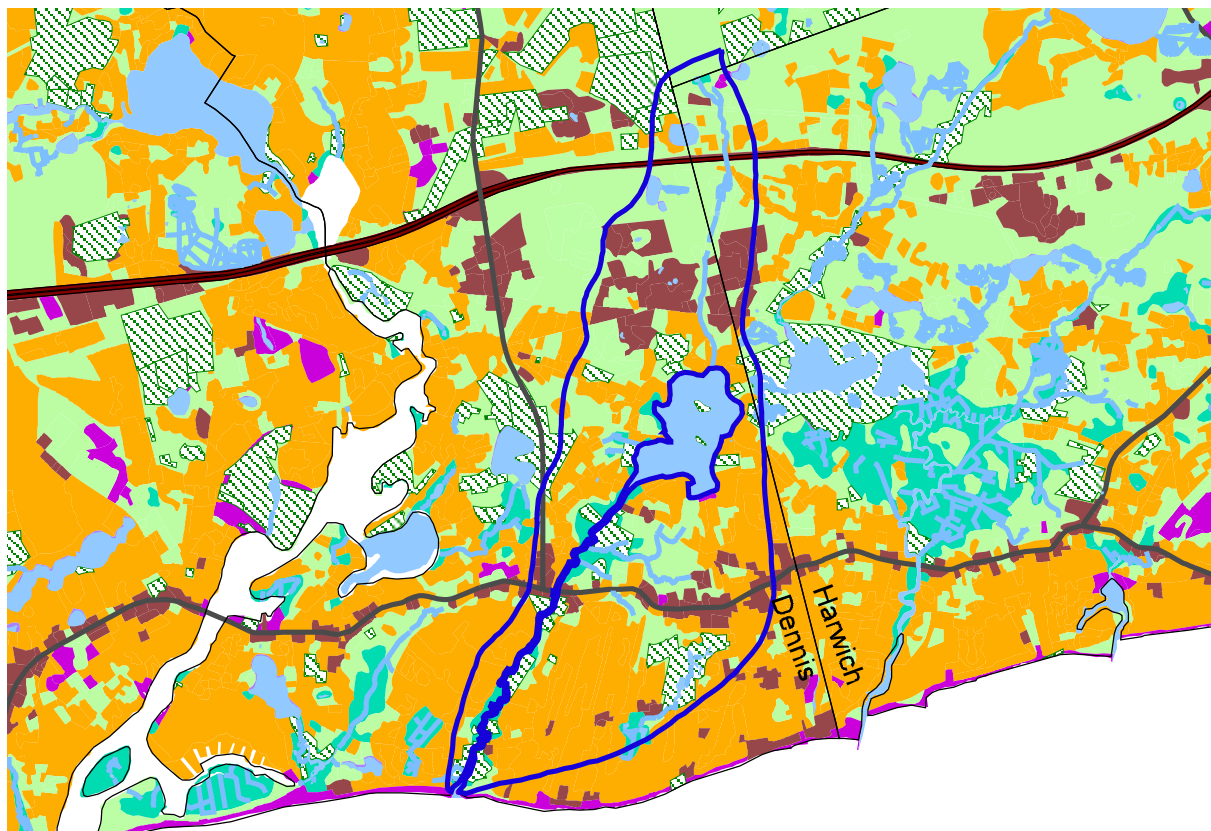
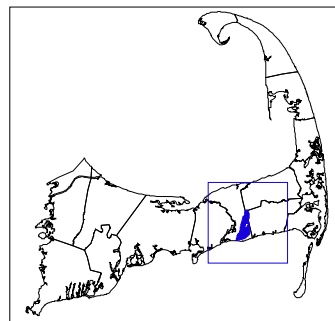
Ponds

Roads

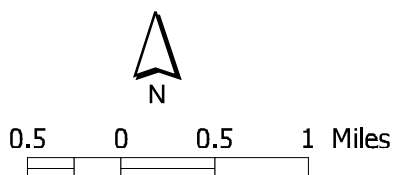


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Land Use



Land Use

